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OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
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### **Rabid animals found in Elizabeth**

Three rabid animals (two skunks and one fox) recently were identified in Elizabeth. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 25 animals have been found carrying rabies in the state so far this year. Testing numbers reflect only those animals that were witnessed exhibiting abnormal behaviors or had encounters with people, pets or livestock. There are many more rabid animals that are never tested.

As weather gets warmer and wildlife becomes more active, it is common to see more wild animals interacting with people and domestic animals. Rabies, particularly in skunks, foxes, and raccoons increase the risk of rabies exposure to pets and humans. If you see wildlife that is acting unusual, please call Colorado Parks and Wildlife office at 303-291-7227

It's also important to have all dogs and cats vaccinated. The vaccine can prevent companion animals from getting rabies from wildlife and possibly exposing your whole family to the disease. Call your veterinarian today to make sure your pets are up to date. Three domestic cats came down with rabies last year in Colorado. The last rabies-positive cat in Elbert County was in 2015.

Since it is hard to know if pastured animals have been exposed to rabid animals, experts recommend horses, cattle and other livestock are vaccinated annually by a veterinarian using an approved large-animal rabies vaccine.

Animals with rabies may come out in the daytime when they normally come out only at night. They also may approach or attack people, pets or livestock instead of avoiding them. Rabid animals may have trouble walking, flying, eating and drinking because the virus affects the nervous system.

The only way to tell for sure if an animal has rabies is to test the animal for the virus. Contact your local public health agency if you have contact with wildlife or find a bat in your home.